

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The following listing of claims replaces all previous versions and listings of claims in this application:

Claims 1. to 69. (Canceled)

70. (New) A method for reducing greenhouse gases (GHG) through the use of a computer-based emission reduction trading system, which comprises:

establishing a standardized tradable instrument that provides a uniform trade size, pricing terms and payment requirements;

establishing a computerized trading platform to which participants can post anonymous offers to sell and anonymous bids to buy tradable instruments;

conducting trades of the tradable instruments pursuant to bids and offers posted on the trading platform;

administering the settlement of trades of tradable instruments, wherein one or more seller participants arrange for the delivery of a quantity of emission credits to the account of one or more buyers;

guarantying performance by having a financial institution perform some or all of the settlement obligations if purchaser or seller participants fail to timely perform the performance including one or more of payment for the tradable instruments or delivery of emission credits;

wherein participants collectively reduce GHG emissions.

71. (New) The method of claim 70, wherein the tradable instrument provides that the emission credits that can be delivered in settlement are one or more of emission allowances, offsets or early action credits that have a vintage date that is the same as or is before a certain date.

72. (New) The method of claim 70, wherein the trading platform comprises computer hardware and software and other equipment connected to a network that provides participants the ability to access the trading platform, to continuously view bids and offers and trade prices and volumes for tradable instruments, and to anonymously post real-time bids and offers for tradable instruments.

73. (New) The method of claim 70, wherein the participants are entities that have been screened for access to the trading platform and are made subject to certain rules, which participants include one or more of the following: entities that are required to reduce emissions from operations or acquire and surrender of emission credits; entities that generate emission offsets by conducting GHG mitigation, reduction, destruction or capture and storage activities; and entities that do not need or generate emission credits but stand ready to buy and sell them.

74. (New) The method of claim 70, wherein the trading platform is communicatively coupled to a registry database that serves as the official record of holdings of emission credits, and trades are settled by transferring emission credits from one or more seller participants' registry accounts to one or more buyer participants' registry accounts.

75. (New) The method of claim 70, wherein prices for trades on the trading platform are publicly revealed and may be used to inform the development of legislation actions and private actions such as formulating reasonable private trading terms.

76. (New) The method of claim 70, wherein participants may elect to utilize the clearing mechanism to guarantee receipt of payment or delivery of credits.

77. (New) The method of claim 70, wherein access to the trading platform is limited to members, and is a rules-based, self-governing, and operational by commitment by some participants without direct government involvement.

78. (New) A method for reducing greenhouse gases (GHG) through the use of a computer-based emission credit trading system, which comprises:

establishing a computerized trading platform that is an auction platform with a processor for conducting periodic or intermittent auctions of emission allowances or offsets;

connecting the platform to a network that allows participants the ability to access the platform to view and post bids; receiving bids and determining auction results based on a single-clearing price method or a discriminating price method; and

disclosing the results of the auctions including prices to the public;

wherein participants collectively reduce GHG emissions.

79. (New) The method of claim 78, wherein the network is the Internet and the allowances are from an auction pool received from an allowance reserve or allowances otherwise offered for auction.

80. (New) The method of claim 78, wherein the platform allows bids to be received electronically, manually or live, and the processor determines winning bids on pre-determined parameters.

81. (New) The method of claim 78, wherein the platform is communicatively coupled to a registry database that is the official record of emission credit holdings by participants, which credits comprise one or more of allowances, offsets and early action credits.

82. (New) The method of claim 81, wherein the processor communicates auction results to the registry database resulting in the transfer of allowances or offsets.

83. (New) The method of claim 78, wherein the processor is configured to return proceeds pro rata to participants based on contributions to the auction pool.

84. (New) A computer-based emission reduction trading system that reduces greenhouse gases (GHG) by facilitating trading of emission credits by participants, the computer system comprising a plurality of components including:

- a computer component for establishing a standardized tradable instrument that provides a uniform trade size, pricing terms and payment requirements

- a computerized trading platform operatively associated with a network to which participants can post anonymous offers to sell and anonymous bids to buy tradable instruments, the platform including a computer component for conducting trades pursuant to bids and offers posted on the trading platform, administering the settlement of trades of tradable instruments, wherein one or more seller participants arrange for delivery of a quantity of emission credits to the account of one or more buyers; and

a guaranty mechanism wherein a financial institution performs some or all of the settlement obligations of purchaser or seller participants if they fail to timely perform, the performance including one or more of payment for the tradable instruments or delivery of emission credits;

wherein the participants collectively act to reduce GHG emissions in the atmosphere.

85. (New) The system of claim 84, wherein the tradable instrument provides that the emission credits that can be delivered in settlement are one or more of emission allowances, offsets or early action credits that have a vintage date that is the same as or is before a certain date, and wherein the trading platform comprises computer hardware and software and other equipment connected to the network that provides participants with the ability to access the trading platform, to continuously view bids and offers and trade prices and volumes for tradable instruments, and to anonymously post real-time bids and offers for tradable instruments.

86. (New) A computer-based emission reduction trading system for reducing greenhouse gases (GHG) by facilitating trading of emission credits, the computer system comprising a plurality of components including:

a computerized trading platform that is an auction platform operatively associated with a network of computers that allows the purchase and sale of emission allowances and offsets, the platform including computerized components for:

receiving bids and determining auction results based on a single-clearing price method or a discriminating price method;

communicating auction results to a registry database where allowances or offsets are transferred between registry accounts;

providing proceeds to auction seller participants pro rata in accordance with the auction results; and

disclosing the results of the auctions including prices to the public;  
wherein participants collectively act to reduce GHG emissions.